

Messengers 8 – Why is the Qur’aan said to be a miracle?

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: Why do Muslims say that the Qur’aan is a miracle?¹

ANSWER:

It might seem odd that a book can be called a ‘miracle’ since most of us are used to miracles being actions which are performed by someone.

To understand this, we have to first look at why different Prophets had different miracles. Why could there not be a ‘standard’ miracle which all Prophets performed to show that they were all from the same god?

In general, the Prophets were given miracles which were appropriate for the circumstances of the people they were sent to.

Musa (Moses) was sent to people amongst whom magic was prevalent. So he was given miracles which overcame the best attempts of the magicians of his time, such as his stick swallowing up their ropes and sticks.

‘Eesaa (Jesus) was sent to a people amongst whom the science of medicine had become important. So he was given the miracles of giving life to the dead, healing lepers, curing the blind and other such miracles which confounded the physicians of that time.

The Arabs were masters of the Arabic language and therefore the Qur’aan, with its unique and inimitable language, dumbfounded those people who refused to accept Muhammad’s (peace and blessings upon him) message of tawheed.

And the tremendous wisdom of the Creator can be seen in the fact that the greatest miracle of the last of the chain of Prophets is the one that will last forever.

For although Muslims believe in the miracles of the Prophets before Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon them all), these miracles all occurred in the era before videos and television, and so there is no visual evidence that they took place at all.

But the Qur’aan is still here.

¹ Refer to al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i’tiqaad of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p184

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The Qur’aan issues many challenges for anyone in any time to bring something that compares to the Qur’aan.

An example is the verse from Soorah al Baqarah (the second chapter):

And if you are in doubt about what We have revealed upon our Servant (Muhammad), then produce a chapter like it – and call upon your supporters and helpers if you are really telling the truth!

But if you do not – and you will never be able to – then fear the Fire, whose fuel is men and stones which is prepared for the disbelievers.

[Soorah al Baqarah (the 2nd chapter) verses 23 to 24]

This would seem to be a remarkably confident challenge from an illiterate man who was surrounded by people whose command of the Arabic language and of poetry far outstripped his.

And yet no one has come close at that time nor since that time to making anything that is as beautiful as the Qur’aan. For every person who can understand Arabic and who reads the Qur’aan, the language of this Book remains something special – something so radically different and superior to all other Arabic writing that the Arabs find it laughable that someone could even try to imitate it.

So in this way, the Qur’aan was a miracle at that time, and will remain a miracle until the end of time.